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7HATCH SAYS KGB; MAFIA USING FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

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SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - THE SOVIET KGB INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND THE MAFIA ARE USING THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION VITAL TO NATIONAL SECURITY; SEN. ORRIN HATCH SAID SATURDAY. HATCH, WHO IS SPONSORING AMENDMENTS TO WEAKEN THE ACT, SAID IT HAS WEAKENED U.S. INTELLIGENCE EFFORTS AND THWARTED FBI INVESTIGATIONS OF ORGANIZED CRIME.

"THE KGB IS ONE OF THE GREATEST USERS OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT. THEY'RE GETTING OUR SECRETS," HATCH TOLD AN AUDIENCE OF ABOUT 350 AT A TOWN MEETING HERE. "WE ARE IN A LOT WORSE SHAPE AS FAR AS THE CRIMINAL ELEMENTS ARE CONCERNED."

UNDER THE CURRENT ACT, HE SAID, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS SPENT MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO SUPPLY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND CRIMINALS WITH INFORMATION.

HATCH, WHO IS SEEKING RE-ELECTION, GAVE NO EXAMPLES OF INSTANCES WHERE SOVIET INTELLIGENCE OR ORGANIZED CRIME HAVE BENEFITED FROM THE ACT.

THE REPUBLICAN SENATOR ALSO CRITICIZED DEMOCRATIC UTAH GOV. SCOTT MATHESON FOR A SPEECH IN WHICH MATHESON SAID IT IS VITAL FOR THE PUBLIC TO HAVE FREE ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT INFORMATION.

HATCH'S AMENDMENTS TO THE ACT WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO CLASSIFY INFORMATION FOR NATIONAL SECURITY REASONS.

"WE HAVE SPENT MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS GIVING INFORMATION TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE CLANDESTINE OR EVIL DESIGNS," HATCH SAID.

HATCH SPONSORED THE TOWN MEETING, WHICH ALSO WAS ATTENDED BY SEN. JAKE GARN, R-UTAH AND SEN. ROBERT DOLE, R-KANSAS.

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